



CHARLES DICKENS AS A NOVELIST : AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This paper provides an in-depth analysis of the works of Charles Dickens, focusing on his narrative techniques, thematic explorations, and character development. Dickens, a stalwart of Victorian literature, utilized his novels to critique social injustices, portray vivid characters, and explore the complexities of human nature. This study examines how Dickens' novels reflect the socio-economic conditions of the 19th century and their enduring relevance in contemporary literature.

INTRODUCTION

The best English novelist of the Victorian era is regarded as Charles Dickens. During his lifetime, his writing was extremely well-liked and attracted readers from all walks of life. He is one of the most enduring voices of English writing from the 19th century because of his abilities as a social commentator and entertainer. Charles Dickens' age is the most significant aspect of his life. Another name for the Victorian era is the Age of Mannerism. Please realize that aristocratic culture, which was rife with hypocrisy at the time, was a major phenomenon in this era. You can now see how a society's working class is portrayed as being darker and more sinister when its upper classes are hypocritical and overly preoccupied with their own life. Except for one writer whose subject matter was the lives of the common people rather than the nobility, crime and corruption were at an all-time high, and no one was discussing them. Charles Dickens depicts Victorian society without expressing pity for the upper class.

Dickens was born into a family that was impoverished and heavily indebted, and he had a difficult and unpleasant childhood. Among his many bitter experiences was his shameful labour in a blackening factory as a young lad. He successfully exploited his talent to earn money, get recognition, and establish himself in the modern literary community via tenacity and honest work. Dickens's vast experience of extreme poverty and sorrow, followed by achievement and prosperity, is revealed to be the basis for his incredibly diverse and promising fictional universe. And he is still arguably the most well-known author of English-language fiction.

Pickwick Papers, Oliver Twist, Nicholas Nickleby, The Old Curiosity Shop, Christmas Carol, *Domby and Son*, *David Copperfield*, *Bleak House*, *Hard Times*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *Great Expectations* are just a few of the many novels that Dickens is credited with writing. *Edwin Drood* is his final unfinished book, working on when he passed away in 1870. However, Dickens' reputation as a novelist is not celebrated by the quantity of his works. The foundation of his success as a novelist is his skill at crafting fiction. The breadth of his

contributions to the field of fiction, more than the volume of his work, is what makes him a great writer.

Dickens' writings stand out in part because of the way they were first published. Prior to being released as whole books, the majority of his significant works were serialized in monthly or weekly portions. His works' narrative structures were impacted by this technique, which produced complex subplots and cliffhangers meant to keep readers interested over time.

Dickens used a variety of narrative voices and points of view. His use of first-person narratives, as in "*David Copperfield*," offers a close-up look into the protagonist's head, but his use of omniscient narration enables a thorough depiction of many social classes. In addition to improving storytelling, the narrative tools enable in-depth character analysis and social critique.

The universal spirit of Charles Dickens' writings makes him a remarkable writer. His settings were Victorian England during the Industrial Revolution, and his characters were as English as they could be. The morals and stories, however, are global and may be set anywhere in the world. The setting of *Oliver Twist* was industrial-era England, complete with seedy slums, destitution, and criminals. However, the novel might just as easily take place anywhere in the world. With the exception of the surroundings, the plot would remain the same whether Oliver were Osman in a Cairo slum, Munna in a Mumbai shantytown, or Felipe in a Rio favela. The characters of Fagin, Artful Dodger, Mr. Bronlow, and Bill Sykes would remain the same even if their names were changed and they were transplanted to any location in the world. And it is what makes Dickens so wonderful; although his novels and characters were written in English, their morals were international. Anybody, anywhere in the globe, could find it appealing.

There is a frugal Ebenezer Scrooge everywhere in the world, and although the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future may not visit him in other countries, he may receive visits from their local counterparts. People from all around the world could

identify with the narrative of the thrifty Scrooge being saved.

What makes Charles Dickens such a remarkable writer is the universality of his themes and characters. His tales transcended boundaries and used a humanist vocabulary that anybody could relate to. Additionally, his characters' idealism in the face of adversity gives individuals the optimism they need. Most people are inspired by Dickens' characters because they often stand up to their surroundings and refuse to be intimidated. Charles Dickens' concentration on the urban poor and their appalling living conditions, both as a writer and as a journalist, is one aspect of his genius that goes beyond his novels.

Oliver Twist brought attention to the exploitation of orphans and child labour, Bleak House attacked the legal system, Hard Times brought attention to the appalling living conditions of the working classes, and Pickwick Papers' graphic depictions of prison scenes made a compelling case for prison reform. In a way, his books brought working-class problems and child labour into sharper light, which helped the British government implement a historic law outlawing child labour.

The countless media adaptations of Dickens' books, such as stage plays, television shows, and movies, demonstrate their ongoing significance. His writings' universal themes—such as moral integrity, human compassion, and social justice—remain relevant to audiences today.

Dickens' impact on a variety of later works of literature goes beyond his local surroundings. Numerous authors have been influenced by his narrative strategies, character archetypes, and thematic concerns, which are still studied in academic settings and honored in literature.

CONCLUSION

More than just amusement, Charles Dickens' books offer insightful commentary on the state of humanity and the socioeconomic conditions of his era. His skilful narrative, in addition to his dedication to social justice guarantees that his writings will always be captivating and relevant. Dickens' literary genius and the enduring influence of his contributions to English literature are highlighted by this in-depth analysis.

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